(c) Names of Plants incurring losses continuously for the last three years and their cumulative loss as on 31.3.2002 are as under:

Rs. in crores

Name of the Plant	Accumulated loss as on 31.3.2002
Durgapur Steel Plant	(-) 4103
Rourkela Steel Plant	(-) 3356
Alloy Steels Plant	(-) 1225
Salem Steel Plant	(-) 787
Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant	(-) 336

Steel Production

3269. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited has improved performance in various spheres, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what is the growth in production during the first half of the current year and that expected by the end of the year; and

(c) the main factors which had contributed to the improved results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) There has been an improvement in the financial performance of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during first half of current year, during which it has cut down its loss to Rs. 467 crores after tax as against Rs. 704 crores during the corresponding period last year *i.e.*, an improvement of 34%. The Company's operational loss has reduced by 50% over the corresponding period last year.

(b) There has been 8% growth in the production of saleable steel during the first half of the current year as compared to the corresponding period last year and the expected growth by the end of the year is about 6-7%.

(c) An increase of 12% in NSR, a volume growth of 8% in mild steel production and sales, lower capital related charges primarily contributed to improved results. Apart from this, the Company has been maintaining its thrust on cost control and rationalisation of manpower through introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme to further improve its profitability.